

BOULT  
CUMMINGS  
CONNERS  
& BERRY  
PLC

LAW OFFICES

414 UNION STREET, SUITE 1600  
POST OFFICE BOX 198062  
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE 37219

January 24, 2001

REC'D TH  
REGULATORY AUTH.

01 JAN 24 PM 2 26

TELEPHONE (615) 244-2582

FACSIMILE (615) 252-2380

INTERNET WEB <http://www.bccb.com/>

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

Henry Walker  
(615) 252-2363  
Fax: (615) 252-6363  
Email: [hwalker@bccb.com](mailto:hwalker@bccb.com)

David Waddell  
Executive Secretary  
Tennessee Regulatory Authority  
460 James Robertson Parkway  
Nashville, TN 37243-0505

**Re:** *Rulemaking to Amend Slamming Rules*  
Docket 00-00983

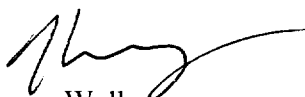
Dear David.

Please accept for filing the original and thirteen copies of MCI WorldCom's Supplemental Comments filed in the above-captioned proceeding. Copies have been forwarded to parties.

Respectfully submitted,

BOULT, CUMMINGS, CONNERS & BERRY, PLC

By:

  
Henry Walker

HW/nl  
Enclosure  
c: Parties

**BEFORE THE TENNESSEE REGULATORY AUTHORITY**  
**NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE**

**In re:**           *Rulemaking to Amend Slamming Rules*  
                  Docket 00-00983

---

**SUPPLEMENTAL COMMENTS OF MCI WORLDCOM ON CUSTOMER BASE  
TRANSFERS**

---

MCI WorldCom files these supplemental comments regarding the Authority's proposed rules concerning notice requirements for customer base transfers, TRA Rule 1220-4-2-.56(2)(d)(2).

The TRA staff has proposed rule 1220-4-2-.56(2)(d)(2) which states that, if a customer is transferred from one carrier to another as the result of an asset transfer, the customer's current carrier must send the customer a notification letter explaining the transfer.

The comments submitted on January 19, 2001, by MCI WorldCom and others recommend that the notice letter sent by the "acquiring carrier" rather than by the customer's current carrier. The comments noted that: (1) the FCC already required the acquiring carrier to notify the customer, and (2) the current carrier may be in financial trouble and unable, as a practical matter, to provide notice.

MCI WorldCom supports the proposed rule requiring the acquired company to give notice, and proposes additionally that the proposed TRA rule be enlarged to require that both the current carrier and the acquiring carrier send notice to the customer.

The reason for this dual requirement is that, based on the experience of MCI WorldCom in acquiring customers of other carriers, customers are far more likely to take notice of mail sent by the customer's current long distance company and are more likely to act on any

instructions contained therein. In the absence of such contact by the current carrier, correspondence from the acquiring carrier is likely to be ignored, or possibly even discarded without being opened. For this reason, MCI WorldCom usually requires that any carrier whose customers are to be acquired by MCI WorldCom inform its customers of the pending transfer before the customer receives any communication from MCI WorldCom. This has proven to be the most effective method of explaining the change to customers, even in situations where MCI WorldCom has merged operations and customer bases of its own corporate affiliates. MCI WorldCom believes that a dual notice requirement is a sensible way to minimize the possibility that end users will be confused when the new carrier begins providing service.

Although the current carrier may, in some cases, be financially unable to comply with this notice requirement, the acquiring carrier presumably has a sufficient economic interest in ensuring a smooth transition to make sure that the notice be given, even at the acquiring company's expense. The subsequent notice provided by the acquiring carrier would, of course, be the same letter that is required by, and must be approved by, the FCC.

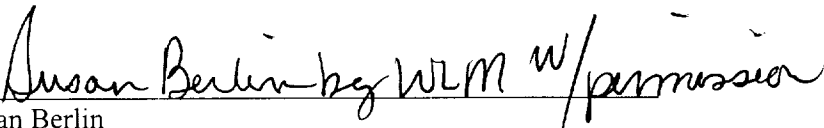
MCI WorldCom otherwise endorses the comments filed on January 19, 2001.

Respectfully submitted,

BOULT, CUMMINGS, CONNERS & BERRY, PLLC

By: Henry Walker by WCM w/ permission

Henry Walker (No.000272)  
414 Union Street, Suite 1600  
P.O. Box 198062  
Nashville, Tennessee 37219  
(615) 252-2363

  
Susan Berlin  
MCI Telecommunications Corporation  
Concourse Corporate Center Station  
6 Concourse Parkway, Ste. 3200  
Atlanta, GA 30328  
*Counsel for MCI WorldCom*

## CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that a true and correct copy of the foregoing has been forwarded via U.S. Mail, postage prepaid, to the following on this the 19 day of January, 2001.

Guy Hicks, Esq.  
BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc.  
333 Commerce St.  
Suite 2101  
Nashville, TN 37201-3300

Henry Walker by WLM  
Henry Walker